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Note verbale dated 22 July 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in his capacity as President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and would like to categorically reject the negative characterization of the Dominican Republic in some sections of the report presented on 21 July 2015 by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to the members of the Council (E/2015/84, of 30 June 2015).

The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations affirms that in our country there are no stateless persons, there have been no deportations since November 2013 and there has been no violence of any sort against those who have chosen to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

In November 2013, the Dominican Republic implemented the National Regularization Plan for Foreigners, aimed at those whose immigration status is irregular. Very flexible internal measures have been taken that have enabled more than 350,000 people, who were in a vulnerable situation owing to their immigration status, to regularize said status, the majority of that figure were Haitian citizens.

The Dominican Republic, exercising its sovereign powers, within an unrestricted legal and constitutional order, has always implemented its National Regularization Plan for Foreigners with due respect for human dignity, in accordance with the principles and standards laid down in international human rights conventions.

As a developing country, the Dominican Republic faces increasing challenges to ensure the welfare and progress of its citizens. However, a significant proportion of its national budget is drained away in social spending on the foreign population (the vast majority Haitians) for social assistance and public health as well as primary, secondary and higher education.

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The Government of the Dominican Republic, which addresses the task of improving the living conditions of its citizens in a responsible manner, again calls on the international community and particularly the international cooperation and development agencies to assume a greater commitment to the people of Haiti.

In that regard, we appeal to the Haitian political leadership itself to assume greater responsibility for their country for the common good, to closely coordinate measures capable of bringing security, political stability and institutional organization to their country.

The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations kindly requests the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, in his capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council, to have this note verbale circulated as a document of the Council.